OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 59 *Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners* Nov. 2001

Prisoners Held Incommunicado

Irrational Retaliation Against Political Prisoners Following Sept. 11

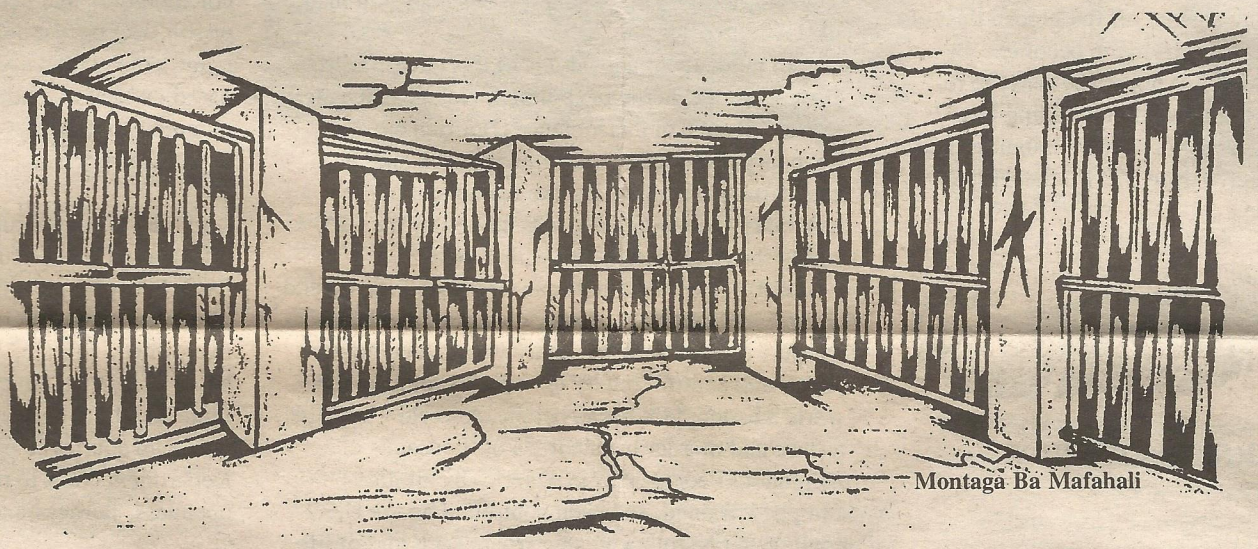
Many of the federally-held political prisoners were placed in administrative segregation following the attacks on September 11th. While some have been released back to general population, several remain in the hole without any disciplinary charges. These are the instances we know about.

Those still being held as of October 15, 2001:
Sundiata Acoli at USP Allenwood PA - being held incommunicado including denial of access to counsel; **Yu Kikumura** at ADX, Florence, CO who is being restricted from all public information - no TV, radio, no sheets or blanket, one 12-minute phone call per month; **Richard Williams** at USP Lompoc. CA - all of his personal property has been confiscated including his address book. When allowed a non-contact visit with his son, it was through bars, videotaped, while Richard was held in 3-point restraints.

Others placed in the hole after Sept 11th but now released back into general population:
Raymond Levasseur at USP Atlanta, GA; **Philip Berrigan** at FCI Elkton. Lisbon; **Marilyn Buck** FCI Dublin, CA; **Larry Giddings** at Lewisburg, **Thomas Manning** at MCP Springfield, MO; **Antonio Camacho** at FCI Allenwood, White Deer, PA 17887; **Carlos Alberto Torres** at FCI Oxford, WI 53952.

On a personal level, what has happened to the prisoners is extraordinarily stressful. The health and well-being of the prisoners is always at risk, subject to the whims of governmental agents. Being kept incommunicado is particularly unnerving. Then there are the extreme inconveniences and disruption of what little comforts prison life affords. When put in the hole a prisoner's personal property is typically confiscated - some of it may be returned, some may not. A cell change also often takes place involving loss of cell mates, beds and whatever other physical amenities that may have been acquired over time.

This repressive attack on the part of the government clearly targets the political prisoners and distinguishes them as people who are doing time for political acts. It comes in a wave of an assault on civil liberties with the prisoners in the front lines. The denial of the right to counsel in particular is unprecedented. Federal Regulations have recently been summarily approved to side-step attorney/client confidentiality. For more info write: pp911@yahoogroups.com



Montaga Ba Mafahali

"An Investigation Associated With The Events of Sept. 11"

Reflections by Marilyn Kalman

I'm in shock along with everybody else. New York is my home town. I am overwhelmed with horror and disbelief. September 12, 2001: I get calls from three different sources....Marilyn Buck was yanked from her cell and put in the hole. The callers want to know what I'm going do about it.

It had already occurred to me that the government would "act out" against the political prisoners. I had also been fretting about a repressive backlash in general. The news about Marilyn brought it home. Here you have someone who's been in prison since 1985 (now at the federal prison in Dublin, California). Whose mail and telephone conversations have been monitored that entire time. A woman. Whose political beliefs, social connections and whatever other affiliations she may have (which have not only been monitored against her will by the Federal Bureau of Prisons ["BOP"], but which have publicly appeared in print in numerous different publications), are as far from religious fundamentalism as you can get. She is taken from her cell without warning, put in solitary confinement, all other prisoners are told they may not speak to her, she may not make any telephone calls including calls to her attorney(s), she may not send or receive mail including legal mail, she may not have any visitors....until further notice.

I've worked with *Out Of Control* and also done legal support work for political prisoners going on 15 years. I've gone to see folks in joints all across the U.S. For the first time I experienced a sense of personal vulnerability. Now I'm thinking it doesn't matter that I'm a lawyer. I'm going to get caught up in this backlash too. Me, my girlfriend, my friends, my family... may have to deal with some shit.

I heard another lawyer was going out to the prison to visit her and thought Marilyn might get some relief. Unfortunately he was turned away. September 17, 2001 I get a letter from Marilyn. It had clearly been opened .... The first time legal mail sent to my office was invaded. (Later I learned that the letter got out after Marilyn was put in the hole but just before there was an order restricting legal mail.) She wanted a legal visit. That was it. I knew I had to leave my personal stresses behind me and try to deal with the situation.

After consulting with a couple other lawyers I contacted the prison at Dublin. I requested a legal visit along with attorney Liz Fink. I was referred to a laywer with the regional counsel for the B.O.P. She and I were on the

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OUTOFTIME-WhereWe're At

Out of Control, Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners has been publishing *Out of Time* since 1989. It has been our primary educational tool for organizing support for women political prisoners and Prisoners of War. It brings news from the inside out and outside in. We also cover news about male political prisoners, other women prisoners, the death penalty, and the growth of the prison industrial complex.

Within the last two years, many women political prisoners have been released. We are overjoyed by the release of our courageous sisters. However, there are women still incarcerated for their political beliefs and actions; including Marilyn Buck, Debbie Sims Africa, Janet Holloway Africa, Janine Phillips Africa, Susan Crane and School of Americas women protesters. We stand strong in our continued support of these women and all political prisoners, and will continue to focus on those in prison for their political beliefs and actions.

Future issues will expand coverage of women political prisoners internationally, from Palestine to Peru, from the Philippines to Turkey. Please join us in building support for them.

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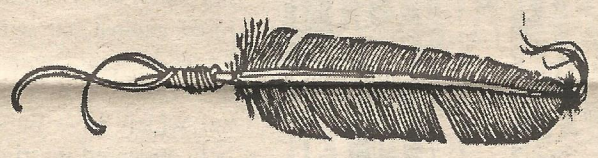
POLITICAL PRISONER UPDATES

STANDING DEER RELEASED AFTER 25 YEARS

Native American warrior and long time political prisoner Standing Deer, was released from Federal Prison in October after almost 30 years. Out of Control *would like to extend a warm welcome home to Standing Deer and a big hug for this heroic elder who has risked his own life to stand by Leonard Peltier, and who has managed to survive the prison industrial complex . His heart and soul and spirit can serve as an example to all of us, and we'll certainly need it for the struggles to come.*

From Anna Standing Deer: Standing Deer would like to thank you all for your support throughout his 25 years of incarceration. He would greatly appreciate it if some of you would write him, as he wishes to express his appreciation personally; and get to know some of the many people who placed the safety net beneath him so that he is here today alive and free. He is still in a state of bliss and has not quite shaken off the golden dust of freedom yet!! He is also busy trying to become acclimated to life out here. It is not always easy to re-adjust after 25 years behind bars, but Standing Deer is a strong, valiant warrior. You can contact Standing Deer by writing: Standing Deer Wilson 977 Bunker Hill Rd. #113 Houston, TX 77024



EDDIE HATCHER SITUATION WORSENING

Statement from Eddie's sister, Ginger: 'Eddie is not doing well right now. Physically or mentally. He has lost an excessive amount of weight. He is being singled out, harassed and intimidated daily, so much that he stays in his cell for as many as 22 hours each day. Raleigh, and the DOC contact people on his website need to be notified that there are people out there concerned and watching his fate which is in the hands of North Carolina DOC. I am truely scared that Eddie will die soon if someone does not intervene....Please stay in touch. I am trying to do my best since our mother passed in July. Please help us.....

PLEASE CALL AND FAX NOW!

1.Demand to know Eddie Hatcher's current condition and whereabouts.
2.Demand an end to his 22 hour lock down status.
3.Demand an end to harassment by the prison staff, Mr. Sid Harkeleroad included.

Sid Harkeleroad, Superintendent, Marion Correctional Institute, 828-659-6814
Franklin Freeman, Governor's Chief of Staff, 919-733-6184 Governor Michael F. Easley. FAX: (919)715-3175 or (919)733-2120
Senator Frank Ballance 919-715-3032 FAX 919-856-9686
Assistant U.S. Attorney General Civil Rights Division, US DO (202) 514-2151

Leonard Peltier -- Reflections on Sept. 11:

Today there is a great sadness in my heart for the thousands of victims, their families, and those who have personally witnessed the horrors of violence, death, and destruction..... I can't help but think of the larger implications and meanings of all of this, I watch TV and see the government's reaction. As always, the plan is to utilize brute force and act with bloodthirsty, uninhibited revenge; to use intimidation and more violence to counter further attacks. How many more innocent victims will be hurt because of this? And how long-term is such a solution....is it a solution at all? Of course it is not.....

As I think about the victims of this attack, I also think about the victims of political violence all over the world. So much of this violence is carried out with weaponry provided by the United States and by people trained at agencies like the School of the Americas. Even bin Laden was trained by the CIA during the Afghanistan war with Russia.

It is my belief that there can be no security, no end to violence, until this country changes , and learns to measure itself, not by monetary wealth, and not by power and control; but by its capacity to make the world a better place for all people. A world where the torture and murder of hundreds of thousands of Indigenous People in Latin America by military equipped, trained, and even controlled by the U.S. could never be tolerated, and where such loss of life would spur the same kind of remorse and mourning that we are all feeling now for the victims in this country...

Only until the government treats other nations and peoples with the same respect and dignity it expects in return, will its citizens be safe, and only the people can make this happen ...

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier 9/12/01

OLSON PLEADS GUILTY

Sara Jane Olson pleaded guilty October 31 to charges of attempting bombings of police cars by the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) in Los Angeles in 1975. Olson explained in a press conference following her court appearance that she was innocent of the charges, but that in the aftermath of September 11, she felt she could not get a fair trial.

Following the press conference, Judge Fiddler called Olson back in court and threatened to rescind her guilty plea. In a meeting with the judge, Olson clarified her statement, reiterating that although she did not personally carry out the actions, she understood that assisting in any way made her legally responsible as well. Olson will be sentenced on December 7. She may be sentenced anywhere between five years to life.

From the Committee to Free Lori Berenson

Lori is appealing her recent conviction on charges of collaboration, and her sentence of twenty years in prison. Her lawyer believes her file will reach a five-judge panel within a month. The appeal is primarily based on lack of evidence of guilt, but also indicates the numerous procedural violations of Peruvian law that occurred in her trial.

Lori is a US citizen currently being held as a political prisoner in Lima, Peru. After serving nearly five years in harsh Peruvian jails, high in the Andes, her conviction of treason against Peru and her life sentence were overturned. In June, 2001 she was cleared of charges of being a terrorist, but convicted of collaboration, and sentenced to twenty years in prison by a civilian terrorism court which, according to the US State Department "fails to meet international standards of openness, fairness and due process."

Animal Rights Activist Dies

Animal rights activist Barry Horne, serving an 18-year sentence at Long Lartin high security prison in Worcester, England, died of liver failure after being on hunger strike. Horne had been sentenced in December 1997 to what was believed to be the longest prison term for an animal rights activist after being convicted at Bristol Crown Court of causing damage costing millions of pounds to shops in arson and attempted arson attacks.

SILVIA BARALDINI REMAINS ON HOUSE ARREST

Silvia, released from a prison in Rome and placed on house arrest April 21, 2001 (see OOT, Issue 57, June, 2001) must be medically evaluated to determine whether she returns to prison. Court-appointed doctors will begin the evaluation on Novmeber 15th. We are hopeful Silvia will achieve the freedom she so deserves. You may write Silvia at: baraldini@mclink.it or check web at justice-for-silvia.org

Silvia with Jay and Ruby
Rome, Summer 2001

OUT OF TIME

WOMEN SPEAK OUT

Leila Khaled: The SF Chronicle printed an extraordinary article on 10/30 featuring an interview with Leila Khaled, a heroine of the Palestinian struggle. In the article, Khaled denounces the attacks on September 11, but upholds the right to armed resistance.

Khaled became known internationally in 1969 when she participated in the hijacking of an Israeli airliner to bring attention to the Palestinian cause. Passengers and crew were released unharmed. A year later, she was arrested during another hijack attempt, and was held for 28 days. She was subsequently released in an exchange.

Leila Khaled in 1970

Khaled, according to the Chronicle article, says Osama bin Laden does not represent the Palestinian cause. She states: "Bin Laden has no contacts with any Palestinian group - whether they are his national groups or Islamic groups. The Palestinian issue is important to Arabs and Muslins - that's why he used it. But, practically speaking he hasn't done anything for the Palestinians." Khaled goes on to condemn the hijackers who brought down the World Trade Center and damaged the Pentagon. "I feel sorry for the innocent people who were killed on September 11… They were not involved. By comparison, when we hijacked planes, it was very well known that we wanted to keep the passengers and crews safe." According to the Chronicle, Khaled distinguishes her actions from terrorism. "A terrorist, in my opinion does things just to bring harm to human beings with no political reason."

Khaled is a part of the Palestinian National Council and works for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which she describes as a Marxist Leninist group committed to a "just society, free from all forms of exploitation."

Barbara Lee: The Congressional Representative from Oakland is a courageous woman; the lone voice of dissension to the government-sponsored war against Afghanistan. The following is an excerpt from her speech to the House of Representatives, September 14, 2001.

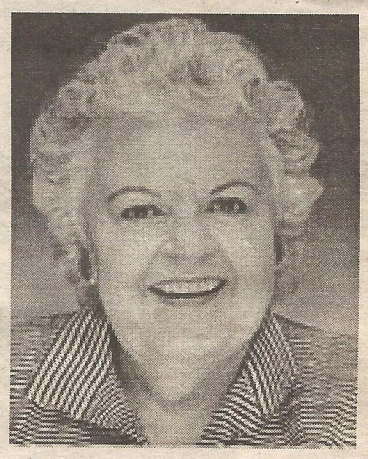
"…I rise today with a heavy heart, one that is filled with sorrow for the families and loved ones who were killed and injured in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania…September 11 changed the world. Our deepest fears now haunt us. Yet I am convinced that military action will not prevent further acts of international terrorism against the United States…We must not rush to judgment. Far too many innocent people have already died…If we rush to launch a counterattack, we run too great a risk that women, children, and other non-combatants will be caught in the crossfire…Nor can we let our justified anger over these outrageous acts by vicious murderers inflame prejudice against all Arab Americans, Muslims, Southeast Asians, and any other people because of their race, religion, or ethnicity…Finally, we must be careful not to embark on an open-ended war with neither an exit strategy nor a focused target. We cannot repeat past mistakes…I have agonized over this vote. But I came to grips with it in the very painful yet beautiful memorial service today at the National Cathedral. As a member of the clergy so eloquently said, "As we act, let us not become the evil that we deplore."

Barbara Smith is a Black Lesbian Feminist and author of 'the truth that never hurts'; writings on race, gender, and freedom. A founder of the influential and formative publishing house KITCHEN TABLE: WOMEN OF COLOR PRESS. She is also part of " Capital District Stand for Peace Coalition " in Albany, N.Y.

During a recent interview on FLASHPOINTS, Barbara made the following comments ".... The government is doing what the U.S. government generally does, which is make war against people of color, 3rd world people, and people of the global south...this is a very old story, a very tragic story, and unfortunately will not solve the problem of terrorism....WAR IS TERRORISM.....

".....there is a deep history of terrorism in this country starting with the genocide of indigenous people in order to colonize this land.....from 1882 - 1964 4,742 Blacks were lynched in this country.... in 1925 there was a huge KKK rally in washington d.c. where hundreds of united states flags were carried by hooded Klan members....."

Barbara Smith on Condaleeza Rice "....I understand she is brilliant ; but brilliance taken in quite the wrong direction..."
Barbara Smith on Colin Powell "....he chose to give his life to death ...that is what the military industrial complex is all about...."



Ronnie Gilbert, musician and activist: "For the second time in my life - at least - a group that I belong to is being investigated by the FBI. The first was the Weavers. The Weavers were a recording industry phenomenon. In 1950 we recorded a couple of songs from our American/World folk music repertoire, Leadbelly's "Goodnight Irene" and (ironically) the Israeli "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena" and sold millions of records for the almost-defunct record label. Folk music entered the mainstream, and the Weavers were stars.

By 1952 it was over. The record company dropped us, eager television producers stopped knocking on our door. The Weavers were on a private yet well-publicized roster of suspected entertainment industry reds. The FBI came a-calling.

This week, I just found out that Women in Black, another group of peace activists I belong to, is the subject of an FBI investigation. Women in Black is a loosely knit international network of women who vigil against violence, often silently, each group autonomous, each group focused on the particular problems of personal and state violence in its part of the world. Because my group is composed mostly of Jewish women, we focus on the Middle East, protesting the cycle of violence and revenge in Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Hysterical neo-McCarthyism does not equal security, never will. The bitter lesson September 11's horrific tragedy should have taught us and our government is that only an honest re-evaluation of our foreign policies and careful, focused and intelligent intelligence work can hope to combat operations like the one that robbed all of us and their families of 6,000 decent working people. We owe the dead that, at least. As for Women in Black, we intend to keep on keeping on.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS
These commentaries and the RAWA statement on pg four are a departure from our usual newsletter content about political prisoners and related items. However, in the wake of the attacks of Sept 11, we think it critical to to hear an international perspectives from women.

REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN'S ASS'N OF AFGHANISTAN

RAWA, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan, was established in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1977 as an independent political/social organization of Afghan women fighting for human rights and for social justice in Afghanistan. The founders were a number of Afghan woman intellectuals under the sagacious leadership of Meena who in 1987 was assassinated in Quetta, Pakistan, by Afghan agents of the then KGB in connivance with fundamentalist band of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Despite the suffocating political atmosphere, RAWA very soon became involved in widespread activities in different socio-political arenas including education, health and income generation as well as political agitation.

Since the overthrow of the Soviet-installed puppet regime in 1992 the focus of RAWA's political struggle has been against the fundamentalists' and the ultra-fundamentalist Taliban's criminal policies and atrocities against the people of Afghanistan in general and their incredibly ultra-male-chauvinistic and anti-woman orientation in particular.

RAWA Statement on September 11 Attacks:

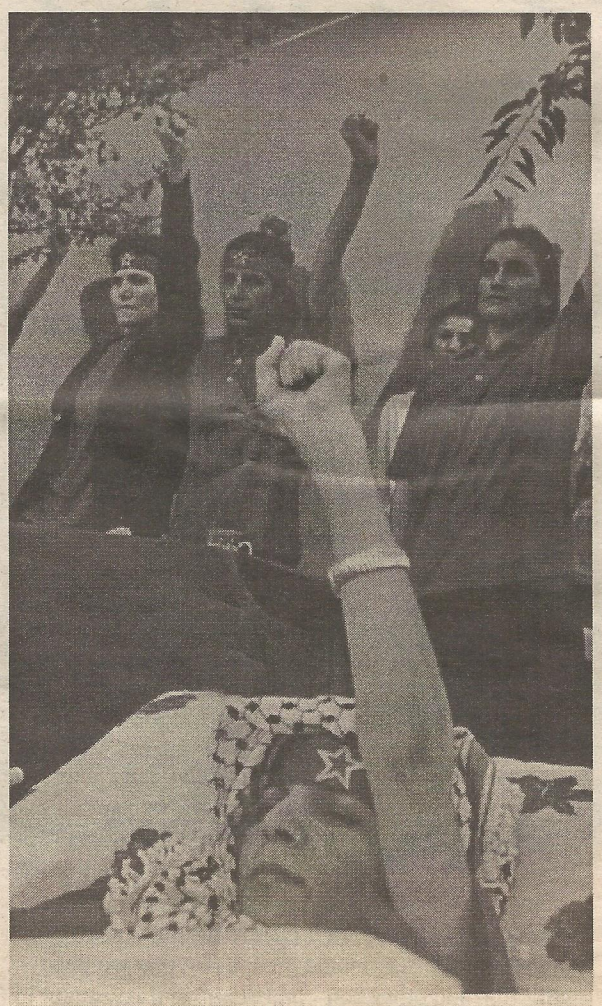
The People of Afghanistan have nothing to do with Osama and his accomplices.

On September 11, 2001, the world was stunned with the horrific terrorist attacks on the United States. RAWA stands with the rest of the world in expressing our sorrow and condemnation for this barbaric act of violence and terror. RAWA had already warned that the United States should not support the most treacherous, most criminal, most anti-democracy and anti-women Islamic fundamentalist parties because after both the Jehadi and the Taliban have committed every possible type of heinous crimes against our people, they would feel no shame in committing such crimes against the American people whom they consider "infidel." In order to gain and maintain their power, these barbaric criminals are ready to turn easily to any criminal force....

The US government and people should know that there is a vast difference between the poor and devastated people of Afghanistan and the terrorist Jehadi and Taliban criminals.

While we once again announce our solidarity and deep sorrow with the people of the US, we also believe that attacking Afghanistan and killing the most ruined and destitute people will not in any way decrease the grief of the American people. We sincerely hope that the great American people could DIFFERENTIATE between the people of Afghanistan and a handful of fundamentalist terrorists. Our hearts go out to the people of the US. Down with terrorism!

DEATH FASTING IN ISTANBUL



(Information excerpted from *The New York Times Magazine*, October 21, 2001, *The Hunger Warriors* by Scott Anderson)

In Kucuk Armutlu, Northern Istanbul men and women are starving themselves to death to protest the Turkish governments prison policies. Since last fall, 40 politically motivated hunger strikers have died, choosing death by starvation as a weapon against a government that isn't paying attention. And more will die, because "...four new teams, comprising some 180 more strikers, have joined the fast...which means the dying might continue into next summer or beyond, and the final toll could reach the hundreds." (The *New York Times Magazine*, October 21, 2001)

There are many grievances against the Turkish government. However, the primary, core demand is "...for the abandonment of (the) new generation of modern prisons in which inmates are housed in one or three-man cells and a return to the dormitory – style prisons of the past. Most of those who have died are current or former inmates serving time for political offenses. According to journalist Scott Anderson, there are an estimated 6,000 inmates held under the 1991 Anti – Terror Law. Of these inmates, less than "...10% have been convicted of a violent offense, and more than half have yet to be convicted of anything..." Most of the strikers belong to an outlawed Communist group.

OUT OF TIME - OUT OF MONEY

a plea from Laura Whitehorn

One night last month, I sat reading Prison Legal News with a growing sense of dread. I was wondering what would happen to the thousands of prisoners in this country — already disenfranchised, ignored, and with few allies beyond the walls — now that all attention is turned to the "war against terrorism," dissent is both unpopular and suspect and money is becoming increasingly scarce. The next day, I talked to a member of Out of Control, and learned that the appeal in last month's Out of Time for funds had elicited a meager four checks. "Exactly what I was worrying about last night," I said.

So I am appealing to all readers of Out of Time: do not forget to contribute to prisoner support work. Whatever horrors the new "anti-terrorism" law means for all of us, it will be worse for those in prison. Over the past ten years, there has been a steady and wonderful increase in the amount of attention paid to prisoners — and an expansion of projects to support both social and political prisoners. It would be terrible if that work were forgotten in this period, or if those who have contributed funds to the work stopped giving. Having spent over 14 years in prison, I know very well how important Out of Time, Prison Legal News and other such projects are, and the difference they make in the lives of prisoners. Send a contribution right now to: Out of Time.

GIVE MORE MONEY OOC extends much thanks to the foks who sent us checks. But the future of *Out of Time* remains in jeaopardy since we got so few donations. Here's another chance to make our doggies happy (see last issue "The Dogs Of OOC"). Use our envelope (if one is provided) or use your own. Make your check out to "Out of Control." Or... if your donation is for $50 or more and you want a tax deduction, make your check out to "John Brown Education Fund" and earmark it "OOC." You can also pledge a monthly amount if you like. One dear subscriber gave us her "G.W. Bush tax rebate." Send the check to:
OOC, 3543 18th Street, Box 30, San Francisco, CA 94110

"An Investigation.." con't from pg. 1

phone a lot over the next few days. She had already been contacted by five lawyers about Marilyn. She told me that Marilyn's lock-down resulted from "an investigation associated with the events of September 11th." She said it was not a local decision. The order came from the U.S. attorney general and would "remain in force until further notice." The FBI was also mentioned. On Friday, 9/21/01, after some discussion about "Ms. Buck's" constitutional rights, I mentioned the likelihood of legal action. She asked me to put the request for a legal visit in writing. By the middle of the following week she called me personally to let me know Marilyn had been released from solitary. Liz Fink and I were able to go see Marilyn on Thursday of that same week.

I don't have a clue as to why the FBI or the Attorney General's office or whoever, decided to let Marilyn out of the hole. (It should be noted that most of the other prisoners at Dublin were outraged at what had been done to Marilyn.) I could speculate why the justice department does what it does, but it would be purely speculation. I am glad I got past my own personal concerns. I'm not being too hard on myself either for the anxiety. The recent passage of the "terrorism bill" promises a new onslaught of repression. All the patriotic fervor has and will readily translate into repudiation of progressive and radical ideas. Activists need to keep stepping up to the plate and be prepared to deal with some backlash. There are community meetings happening around the country. The National Lawyers Guild has published a pamphlet entitled "Know Your Rights" which gives a basic overview of what to do if you're contacted by the FBI or arrested. The NLG on the web: www.nlg.org. No one said it was gonna be easy.